

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed November 3, 2006. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-19, and 21-28 remain pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

1. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's statement in the outstanding Office Action in which claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-19, and 21-29 have been indicated as being allowable over the cited art.

In that it is believed that every rejection has been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

2. Response to Objection of Specification

The specification has been objected to as allegedly failing to provide antecedent basis for claimed subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection for the following reasons.

First, 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) states that the "claim or claims must conform to the invention as set forth in the remainder of the specification and the terms and phrases used in the claims must find clear support or antecedent basis in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description." With respect to the phrase "wherein a third portion of the sidewall extends from the second portion to and in contact with the first surface of the substrate and defines an obtuse angle with the second portion as measured through the fluid-handling slot," Applicants submit that the claim terms find clear support in the description so that meaning of the terms are clear and ascertainable.

For example, paragraph 00046 of the specification describes Fig. 12 and explains that a slot 304e can include a through region 1002e which "can have a constant or increasing width w₄ starting at a second (thin film) surface 612e and traveling toward a first (backside) surface 610e." Therefore, the slot extends from one surface of the substrate to another surface of the substrate.

Also, paragraph 00042 of the specification explains that a slot "can have a

sidewall 1008 that at least partially defines the slot” where the sidewall “can have a first portion 1010 that is generally parallel to the first surface 310a and a second portion 1012 that is generally orthogonal to the first surface,” in describing Fig. 10 (which resembles Fig. 12). Therefore, the specification provides support for a first and second portions of a sidewall, as described in claim 1.

Also, paragraph 00043 of the specification describes a remaining sidewall portions 1012, 1014. The remaining sidewall portions 1014, 1016 “form obtuse angles” relative to sidewall portion 1012, as shown in Fig. 10. Therefore, the sidewall portion 1014 extends from the sidewall portion 1012 to and in contact with a surface of the substrate and defines an obtuse angle with the sidewall portion 1012 as measured through the fluid handling slot 1002.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification provides clear support for the claim language “wherein a third portion of the sidewall extends from the second portion to and in contact with the first surface of the substrate and defines an obtuse angle with the second portion as measured through the fluid-handling slot” and complies with 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1).

Secondly, MPEP 608.01(o) states that the “meaning of every term used in any of the claims should be apparent from the descriptive portion of the specification with clear disclosure as to its import; and in mechanical cases, it should be identified in the descriptive portion of the specification by reference to the drawing, designating the part or parts therein to which the term applies.” Applicants submit that the claim terms (e.g., “portion,” “sidewall,” “obtuse,” “surface,” etc.) are used in and apparent from the specification and are also clearly identified in the figures. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the claims comply with MPEP 608.01(o).

3. Cancellation of Claims

Claims 8, 12, 20, and 29 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection to these claims are rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


Charles W. Griggers
Reg. No. 47,283